

Dear Friends,

Heiney Newsletter, April 2007

Since I didn't get a lot of news out in the last letter I wanted to send out an update real quick while I still can! Things are about to get very hairy around here. Thanks for all the thoughtful notes about Amadou. I saw his brother yesterday. His brother will take 5 of Amadou's 7 children into his family to raise. His wife's sister will take one and the wife will keep the baby. It breaks my heart to hear of his family having to break up like that but that is the way it is done here. Amadou's brother already has a large family himself so this will be quite a burden on him. My girls have gotten together some clothes to send over to try and help out.

Right before Easter Tim left for the Forest Region. The church had planned a conference right then, so Tim had to be gone for Easter. So it was a pretty relaxed day for us here! The next day Katie left to go back to school. We had an incredible time while she was here. Since there are so many kids from Guinea that go there an adult usually accompanies them all. This time it was me and 12 kids headed to the plane. The youngest was in 7th grade, so my job was pretty easy. With Tim and Katie both gone, and Andrea doing school at Donna's each morning, it is awful quiet around here! So I wanted to let you all know what our plans are for the future...

Travel plans: Tim will arrive home from the Forest next Monday, the 23rd. Somehow this trip has seemed more like 3 months than 3 weeks! On the 26th I will leave for Togo for a week to work on some book keeping over there. Once I get home we'll have 2 weeks together and then Andrea and I are going to the US (Kansas) for Jonathan's graduation from high school! We are so blessed to be able to attend with him. Joel will be there as well, so it will be great. Andrea will stay in the US with her grandparents in Michigan and I will then fly to Kenya for a meeting of all the Area Administrators for Africa. With Andrea gone, Tim will move back to the Forest Region again. Once I get back from Kenya I have about a week and a half and I will leave for a meeting of Volunteer Coordinators in Minnesota. Katie will come back to the US with me then. (We're "shuttling" kids home this time!) We'll then wait for Tim to return in July for the Ablaze conference in Houston. In August we will be getting Jonathan settled in his new college situation, then have our home assignment in September and October. We'll return to Guinea in early November. So if it looks confusing and crazy, it is. But with 4 trips home in four months it made a lot more sense to just stay there and get it all done in one trip.

Guinea: Well, it sure has been quiet around here. We've heard some great stuff that has been happening but there still isn't a lot of noticeable change yet. Prices of rice and flour are going down a bit which is good. The bad thing for us is that the exchange rate for the dollar has about cut in half, but prices on other goods haven't really changed, so suddenly everything is a lot more expensive! I imagine for a while there will be a lot of behind the scenes changes. We had a couple of incidents lately that have been strange. One night there was shooting in Siguiiri. We hadn't heard anything aside from that, but then the next day a MiG flew into the roof of the radio/television station near us here, right across from our (brand new!) US Embassy. The shooting in Siguiiri turned out to have to do with a drug argument. The MiG is being considered an accident. We decided we're all just really jumpy right now and while 6 months ago this wouldn't have seemed so strange, now we kind of take notice. There has been more random crime too for some reason. In fact taxis going up and down the country, which usually travel at night, are not going at night anymore because of thieves on the road. One missionary here in Conakry was involved in an attempted car jacking. Some are saying there is an unrest among the young people, but I'm not sure why. Life can sure be confusing sometimes!! In the midst of all this we were hearing about the reports of the shootings at Virginia Tech! Donna and I decided that it would not be a bad thing if the Lord decided to come back any day now!! But what a marvelous thing it is that we have a God who isn't jumpy when things go wrong, or nervous when crime rates go up. He is 100% in control and He understands our crazy schedules and our confusions. I wouldn't want to be going through this life without that confidence!

The church: We have great news! We will be having an ordination here this June!! Julien Kotembedounou is finishing up his vicarage here in Guinea and the ordination will take place in Gueckedou on June 17th. Praise God with us for this huge step for the church here. We're really proud of Julien and pray that he will be a blessing to the church.

Please pray for these next months. We will not be together as a family very much for a while. It's really pretty good for Tim to be able to spend some good time with the church and it will be so good for us to be with our kids again. Pray for our scheduling and all the traveling we will be doing as well. Please pray for Tim's time with the Guinean church. There's a lot they need to get worked out and planned before we go, so pray that God will use the time he has with them and they can all feel good about what is done. Pray for the church here in Guinea and the guys who have been called to lead. The church still struggles in so many ways, but it is God's church and we pray that He will daily make it strong in Him.

Thanks again for all the notes of encouragement and all your prayers. Thank you for your love of Guinea and the people here. Continue to lift them up daily as we work together in God's Kingdom.

Blessings,

The Heineys

(Tim from the Forest, Beth and Andrea from Conakry, Katie from Dakar, Joel from Michigan, and Jonathan from Kansas!!!!)

"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." -- Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

Approximately 1.6 BILLION people in the 10/40 window have never had a chance to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ even once.